



2008-2012 Strategic Plan

3rd Quarter (FY 2010)

Report of Progress

Since adoption of the KDFWR Strategic Plan FY 2008-2012 (July 1, 2007), the Department has made noticeable strides and progress on a number of strategic and operational objectives. After the department updated its plan at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2010, we continue to implement strategies and action plans to help realize additional achievements.

Described below is a summary of the department's efforts toward achieving specific operational objectives during the 3rd quarter of Fiscal Year 2010 (January - March, 2010).

Objective

Summary Progress

1.1.d. Rehabilitate and deepen a minimum of one Department-owned lake by the end of FY 2012.

The Engineering Division is close to wrapping up the data collection on Kincaid Lake. The next step is to develop a map of the lake bottom to evaluate the silt load. The Fisheries Division continues to assess dredging possibilities for Kincaid Lake.

1.1.e. Expand stream restoration projects by 43,000 linear feet per year and locate at least two land acquisition projects under the FILO program by the end of FY 2012.

KDFWR has completed stream restoration on 22,750 linear feet in this past quarter. Three land acquisitions tracts were located. Thus far in FY 2010, The Mitigation Review Team has approved 66,160 linear feet for FILO projects.

1.2.b. Develop 5-year habitat improvement plans for all KDFWR Wildlife Management Areas by the end of FY 2010.

So far this Fiscal Year, the Wildlife Division has developed draft plans for 7 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Bluegrass Region staff continued implementing plans on WMAs, including a variety of grant-funded habitat improvements such as: 4 acres of Wetland Reserve (WRP) and Heritage Land wetland projects on Kentucky River WMA; 300 acres of brushland conversion to grassland on Miller Welch-Central Kentucky WMA; installation of 5 vernal pools and removal of exotic plants on over 100 acres at Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA.

- 1.2.c.** Improve 5,000 acres of forestland habitat annually by the end of FY 2012. *The Wildlife Division has worked to develop an EQIP Forestry Special Practice and NRCS has committed \$1.0 million to this effort. At Clay WMA, 9 acres have been cut for regeneration and early successional habitat, with 14 acres thinned, 5 acres cleared with skid steer, 22 acres of oak regeneration coppiced, 22 acre cedar harvested. At Grayson Lake WMA, 650 acres have been inventoried and 10 woodland waterholes created. At Paintsville Lake WMA, 7+ acres have been thinned, 2 acres edge feathered and 2,000 shrubs planted, 2 acres patch cut and 10 apple trees pruned. At Yatesville Lake WMA, 13.5 acres have been burned to expand alder, 1.5 acres planted to alder (6,300 seedlings), 1/2 acre alder cut as part of rotational management. Within the larger Northeast region, habitat management was planned for 1,512 acres of private forest land. Overall, more than 2, 250 acres have been improved in some way thus far in FY 2010. Finally, a cooperative project pertaining to American Chestnut restoration was initiated with KDFWR, the American Chestnut Foundation, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.*
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- 1.2.e.** Enroll 350 thousand acres in Farm Bill Conservation practices by the end of FY 2012. *The Wildlife Division has developed and submitted a proposal to modify the Conservation Priority Areas in Kentucky. Our proposal was accepted and this should help boost our CRP general sign-up enrollment. We received and are processing 399 WHIP applications, in which landowners have requested over \$1.7 million to improve 8,214 acres. We have received and are assisting the processing of 2,211 EQIP applications, in which landowners have requested over \$25.3 million to improve 96,498 acres.*
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- 1.3.a.** Increase acres of wetland habitat, development, restoration, or enhancement by 25 percent annually by the end of FY 2012. *In FY 2009, staff enrolled 17,086 acres into Wetland Reserve (WRP). So far this fiscal year, Bluegrass Region staff has enrolled 21 acres into WRP on Kentucky River WMAs. We have received and are processing 75 WRP applications. We have just learned that our state will likely receive \$6.0 million to fund WRP this fiscal year, which is a record amount for Kentucky.*
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- 1.4.a.** Develop and implement prevention and response plans for targeted fish and wildlife disease by the end of FY 2009. *The Wildlife Division has Initiated cooperative disease surveillance measures for pseudorabies and swine brucellosis in feral pigs. Measures are being taken to implement components of Terrestrial Nuisance Species plan (adopted last year) that has been developed. We will begin by having the Habitat team*

educate coworkers between sites on the importance of cleaning equipment and how to best manage some invasive plant species. Chronic wasting disease Contingency plan was most recently updated as well (April 2010).

1.4.d. Develop and implement plans for restoration of state or federally listed imperiled species by end of FY 2010.

The Wildlife Division continues development on Avian management plans. Also, work continues on aquatic restoration with the recent work on *P. capax* and the continuing in vitro work for mussel restoration. During this past quarter, Alligator gar and lake sturgeon eggs were received by the Fisheries Division hatcheries, hatched, and stocked into grow out ponds or raceways. Federal Aid proposals to monitor movement of stocked alligator gar have been written. Kentucky and Cumberland Arrow darters were also surveyed and broodfish collected.

1.5.c. Develop fish management plans for all major public waters by the end of FY 2010.

All management plans are either completed or nearing completion. A draft of the Phase 1 Statewide Trout Management Plan has been completed and is under review.

1.5.d. Develop a commercial fisheries plan that includes strategies for sustainable, non-conflicting use of the resource by FY 2010.

Paddlefish harvest data has been taken during field collections using ride-alongs. Plans for a catfish creel and angler survey for 2010 have been finalized. Plans for indentifying, marking, and using GPS coordinates to mark boundaries of Ohio River tributaries to the main stem have been finalized. This information will be used to identify the Kentucky fishing boundaries for fishermen and commercial fishermen.

1.5.e. Update the state wildlife action plan by the end of FY 2010.

The Wildlife Division continues work on the Climate Change chapter and still anticipates the invertebrate work from the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission to be incorporated.

1.5.f. Increase hatchery production capability by 20 percent by the end of FY 2012.

Earlier this fiscal year, the Department included the two specific renovation projects as line-item capital projects in our 2011-2012 biennial budget proposal. The department awaits a budget to assess our ability to move forward. However, since then, the Engineering and Fisheries Divisions continue to work with HDR Fish Pro who is developing a feasibility study for both of the state owned hatcheries. The hatchery expansion-feasibility analysis is 65% complete, with comments already sent to HDR concerning their initial draft proposal.

2.1.a. Build or renovate 6 boating access sites per year by the end of FY 2012.

The Engineering Division is working on 3 boat ramps along the Salt River. The two in Spencer County are in the early stages but have been delayed due to high water. Because of this, the expected completion date is July 2010. The boat ramp in Boone County was completed on May 5, 2010, and is currently open to the public. Two ramps in Calloway County (Patterson and Boyd) were paved last week. At the end of the third quarter, the department has completed 7 boat ramp projects at the end of the 3rd quarter for Fiscal Year 2010. Most recently, 3 additional access sites have been completed (4th quarter). Overall in this fiscal year, the department has seen 10 boating access projects already completed.

2.1.d. Increase the amount of KDFWR-owned land by 10,000 acres by the end of FY 2012.

FILCO has identified 2 new land tracts that are under consideration including two wetland sections of 140 acres, which is in addition to 2 tracts at Sturgis (218 acres) and Laurel Gorge (698.63 acres).

2.1.e. Develop 25 new bank access sites by end of FY 2012.

In FY 2009, five new bank access sites were completed. During this past quarter of FY 2010, the Engineering Division has started work on a fishing jetty at Kentucky Dam State Resort Park. We are continuing to plan for bank access features at Marion County Lake, Reformatory Lake and a site in Butler County. As of the end of the third quarter, three bank access sites were completed and one was recently finished in May (fourth quarter). Also, our Fisheries Stream Mitigation Program has begun the planning stage for a 1.2-mile reach at Hatchery Creek development where most of the length will be accessible to anglers.

2.1.f. Increase the amount of public access acreage located within 50 miles of the Golden Triangle (Louisville, Lexington, Northern Kentucky) by 10 percent by end of FY 2012.

KDFWR: 1) is working with Real Properties to complete of 1293-acre WMA in Marion Co. anticipated spring/summer 2010; 2) entered an MOU with Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for 451-acre addition to the John C. Williams WMA in Nelson Co.; 3) met with 3 prospective donors of land in the Bluegrass Region during this quarter and are working on a land contract for one tract.

2.3.b. Increase the number of ADA accessible locations for fish and wildlife-related activities by 2 per year by the end of FY 2012.

The following projects are ongoing and will be ADA when completed; Fishing Jetty at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park., Marion County Lake Fishing Pier, and the Hazard Bank Access—totaling 3 for this Fiscal Year already.

3.3.b. Increase by 25% each year the number of annual hits on our website by the end of FY 2012.

On March 22nd the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources produced its first ever live video broadcast via the internet. The experiment kicked off a new era for the department's information and education efforts. For the period of July 1, 2009 through May 4, 2010, there have been 11,072,807 hits on the KDFWR website. Last Fiscal Year for the total 12 months, the department saw 13,410,105 hits on our website. With a recent push of customers to our website for specific online sales and public information campaigns, the department expects a strong 4th quarter.

4.1.a. Develop a statewide neighborhood fishing program by the end of FY 2011.

The Department's Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINS) program included an increase from 6 to 29 lakes thus far in FY 2010. Each district in Kentucky has at least one pond enrolled. The program has received considerable positive feedback this quarter.